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GULL
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VOLUME 4

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JANUARY, 1922

NUMBER 1

JANUARY (5th ANNUAL) MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 12th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

Annual reports will be presented and officers and directors elected for the ensuing year.

Mr. Chase Littlejohn will address the meeting on the subject of "The Birds of San Mateo County."

Our Corresponding Secretary, Mr. C. B. Lastreto, recently returned from the Oriental trip of the Chamber of Commerce, will make reference to some of his interesting experiences thereon.

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ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE IN JANUARY. Members will greatly facilitate the work of a busy Treasurer by remitting the same during the month, without further notification.

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JANUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, January 15, 1922.

San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9 A. M., and Grand Avenue car on 22nd Street train at mole, leaving car at Perkins Street and Grand Avenue.

East Bay members transfer from any main line to Grand Avenue, or Lake Shore Avenue cars, leaving cars at the above mentioned point.

The party will form at the corner of Perkins Street and Grand Avenue at 9:45 A. M. and proceed to the duck enclosure on Lake Merritt, in order to view the feeding of the wild ducks, which takes place at 10 A. M.

Those desiring to spend the afternoon in Trestle Glen, about a half mile from Lake Merritt, will bring lunch and drinking water. Leader: Mrs. A. S. Kibbe.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING: The fifty-ninth regular meeting of the Association was held on December 8th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Miss Ames, Recording Secretary; seventeen members and six guests in attendance.

Miss Lorient M. V. Lamoreux recounted many interesting anecdotes from her experiences with birds in captivity, dealing more especially with those of African birth. Gathered by her through purchase or as gifts, during her sojourn in France, she found herself greatly embarrassed in securing proper and acceptable food for them when she left those regions where the African millet

was to be obtained. Some died while others accepted substitutes. Agreeing fairly well among themselves and forming very strong attachments to each other, the little visitors from the Dark Continent had little toleration for birds from other lands. The little African blue bird with red eyes, which was named in the subject of the lecture, exhibited this characteristic so strongly that he could not be brought to California in the one cage which held the other thirty, but was kept in his mistress' hand-bag. As usual, Miss Lamoureux held the attention of her audience closely to the end, when a cordial vote of thanks was accorded her.

Following the meeting, the Board of Directors assembled and elected to membership Miss Cecelia Paroni, Berkeley, and Miss Alice Rhine, San Francisco.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Audubon Association of the Pacific is completing a rather uneventful year in its history, but its routine work has progressed steadily and we believe that its influence is spreading. The membership list shows constant growth and the monthly meetings are well attended not only by members but by others. An arrangement has been made whereby the meetings will hereafter be held in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, in the Civic Center, which is expected not only to redound to the advantage of the Association, but, as well to enhance the usefulness of the Library. The California Academy of Sciences will likewise hold its meetings at this place, and other scientific societies whose meetings are marked by lectures open to the public, will doubtless be added to the list, forming what must be recognized as a felicitous combination of kindred activities.

The monthly field trips cover the interesting ornithological localities within the radius practicable for one-day excursions, and have always been popular. The attendance runs from ten to thirty, averaging about twelve members and six guests. During the yearly cycle some one hundred, forty different species are encountered in highly diversified habitats—fields, gardens, chaparral, coniferous and deciduous forests, artificial lakes, tidal marshes and flats, open ocean and land-locked bay. Only twice in fifty-four consecutive months has rain interfered with the trip. The exceptionally abundant rains of the winter of 1920-21 effected a marked readjustment of the bird population throughout our district, not only among the visitants but as well with the resident species and we are all looking forward with interest to developments of the coming season.

The joint committee of the Cooper Ornithological Club and this Association has worked perseveringly with the oil companies to the end that all those operating tankers have undertaken to discharge their water ballast into receiving ponds at their loading points around San Francisco Bay, thus obviating the pollution of the ocean surface and the needless slaughter of multitudes of water birds. We are justified in stating that a material betterment of conditions has been effected.

The Association has continued the publication of its monthly bulletin, *THE GULL*, carrying notices and reports of its activities and other data pertinent thereto.

Junior work under the immediate auspices of the Association, has languished for lack of leaders, a deficiency which we share with every other organization looking to the development of our boys and girls. It is upon our school teachers that we are depending for direction of the minds of children to consideration of the sentimental and economic relations of our feathered friends to man, and for the spread of bird lore. Our teachers furnish a large proportion of the active membership of the Association and they are responding finely, as ever, to this need.

A. S. KIBBE.

THE GULL

APOLOGIA OF THE NATURE LOVER

I meant to do my work to-day,
But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And the leaves were calling me.

And the wind went sighing over the land,
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its shining hand,
So what could I do but laugh and go?

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE.

* * *

QUAIL vs. CUT WORMS

More excellent Audubon ammunition from the Fresno District, in the shape of an editorial from the *Parlier Progress*, Nov. 3, 1921.

Quail season opened Tuesday, November 1st. Early that morning numerous hunters, largely the business men of the towns of this valley, with regulation hunting gear, and various gauges of shotguns went out on the highways and byways, through vineyards and orchards, b'azing away at the little birds, calling it sport. It is business men who hunt quail more generally, because farmers who know their business know the quail as an ally and a friend, and because business men seek this form of sport in lieu of the exercise they should take and do not take. Further, they think they have to have an excuse to take them out of doors on long, early morning hikes, the mere sport of walking and hiking not being sufficiently exciting for their jaded nerves. Neither have they progressed to the point where the camera takes the place of the gun, and where nature study takes the place of lust to kill.

Consider then the cutworm, how he cuts. He labors not, neither doth he spin. Not he. Every year, more and more the little-beast cuts into the buds and young shoots of the vineyards throughout this valley doing irreparable damage. More and more damage will he do as time passes unless his natural enemies among the birds and animals be allowed to prosper.

The little quail seems to consider the cutworm a delicacy. It is like frog legs to a Frenchman, or caviar to an epicure. Have you ever watched the quail at early dawn? Have you seen him hop up on a vine or a stake, perk his head to one side and then another, drop down on a vine, give it, too, the once over, or hop to the ground and scratch the cutworm from under the surface of the soil? If you have you know him as a friend of man, of greater value in the vineyards guarding them from destruction, than on the table, a tiny morsel of delicate food for someone's palate.

One rancher here, who knows the value of his little feathered friend, said Tuesday morning as the guns of hunters had aroused him to the fact of the slaughter of his field guardians:

"Every time I hear hunters out after quail it makes me mad. They call it sport, but if I had my way I'd organize the vineyardists to demand that no quail shooting be allowed in this valley. If the hunters knew what they were doing in their sport, they would be less apt to consider it such."

It is simply a case of quail on the table meaning cutworm in the vineyard.

THE GULL

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP. December 11, 1921, one of those cool but beautiful Sundays, saw the Audubon members on one of their favorite walks, starting from 43rd and Fulton St., and taking the accustomed route through Golden Gate Park.

The trip was unique in that the party was divided into two sections, the first of which was composed of Mesdemoiselles: Baily, Griffin, Schroder and Sterne; Mesdames: Kibbe, Reygadas, and Smith; Messrs: Kibbe, Rapp and Wright; Visitors: Mrs. Ame'ia S. Allen and Mrs. C. L. Heilman. The second section followed two hours later and was composed of Miss Amy Gunn, Leader. This was brought about by the unusual anxiety on the part of the leader to make the trip a most successful one. Under the impression that the trip was to be made the following Sunday, she devoted this time to a preliminary reconnaissance, and strange to say, the two sections of the party traversed the same ground, each in ignorance of the proximity of the other, the climax coming when the rear guard overtook the vanguard at the Japanese Tea Garden, and passed on, ignorant of the birthday party that was being enjoyed by the advance guard therein.

It has been the custom that the December meeting should wind up at the Japanese Tea Garden in celebration of the fact that the birthdays of three of the oldest members fall close to the date of the meeting. Being informal, no invitations are issued, so it is also something of a sporting event, depending for its perfection upon the presence of the "birthdayees." The three birthday cakes arrived in due season but where, oh where, were the "birthdayees"? The situation was ultimately saved by the advent of one of the trio upon whom were showered the cakes and honors intended for the three.

NOTE: The Field Committee would like a report from one of the absent "birthdayees" as to whether he received any of the cake which was sent to him through the exercise of great self-denial on the part of the other revelers.

Despite the above distracting events, the following birds assisted in making the day a really enjoyable, worthwhile trip: Eared and pied-bill grebes; glaucous-winged, Western, California and ring-billed gulls; Brandt cormorant; Mallard, baldpate, shoveller, scaup, bufflehead, white-winged scoter, surf scoter, and ruddy ducks; coot; California quail; Western belted kingfisher; flicker; Anna hummer; black phoebe; Brewer blackbird; purple finch; Nuttall, golden-crowned and song sparrows; San Francisco towhee; Hutton vireo; Audubon and salt marsh yellow-throat warblers; Vigor's wren; Santa Cruz chickadee; Coast bush-tit; ruby-crowned kinglet; Hermit thrush and Western robins; thirty-six species in all. Present: Eleven members and two guests.

MRS. A. S. KIBBE.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p. m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco
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Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

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